

REFUGEES BACK IN SOUTH AMBOY FIND RUIN ONLY

Homes, Churches and Theatres Are Heaps of Debris After Great Explosion.

NOTHING ESCAPED WRECK

Scared Cat Clings to Perch in Tree, Keeping Vigil Over Scene of Desolation.

South Amboy at midnight on Saturday was a town of Stygian darkness and heavy silence, broken only by the shuffle of feet as soldiers marched by, a glint of lantern light on bayonet, a muffled command in crisp military tones. Wrecked and gaping houses leaned over roads filled with shattered glass and woodwork. Eerie shadows lurked in corners and the figure of a man in dull uniform moving silently from a doorway and back again seemed full of grim suggestiveness.

It was because of the knowledge that over the trees to the south had come the vast host of white and yellow that filled the heavens, while the blast of a great wind swept through the village, tearing at it with mighty force and carrying death in its path. While waiting in the silent streets eyes continually watched the skyline for another of these blinding glares that warned one to drop to the ground and hold one's head. It was a constant atmosphere of apprehension of the unknown horror that might come. To get through the town was to walk on a mine. All day long cars had been taking the last little pitiful groups of refugees from the town, and at midnight the big light in front of City Hall, the light in Amboy where the rescue cars were drawn up along the curb was dark and silent. But finally the last call came and the trucks roared up over the darkness, their drivers received their orders and then tore away to the south, toward the darkened and wrecked region.

In the Path of Demolition.

Past military guards, men drawn up at the bridges with fixed bayonets and fixed eyes of who should not pass, the cars went, and then over almost impossible roads, under railroad culverts, past deserted automobiles and wagons, and up to the town. The town came into the deserted village.

One block and a guard stepped out of the darkness, above up his bayonet and then as he saw the car he stepped into the shadows as the Lieutenant on the front seat told of his business. The driver went slowly. A few minutes before the car was in the town, a muffled boom had told of the hidden danger behind the hill. The headlights sent weak beams down the street and showed the buildings on the side.

Crazily awry and distorted they were. Doorways loomed black because no doors were there, windows were open to the rain that fell during the night. Rooms were lifted slightly and swung about as if wisted by a great hand. Here a porch, there a doorway, there a picture house, the brilliant colors of posters just visible, showed like a ruined ruin, its windows shattered and its walls as if it were something that had been forgotten long ago.

Ahead a few points of swinging light came out of the darkness, and then one saw a light and then a car and then a soldier. There was a group of them in front of the fire house; the guard was just being relieved. There was hardly a sound from them, and then the car drew up behind a gray army ambulance, the engine was shut off, and the silence came again like a curtain over the hill, as if a miter as if the giant stirred in his sleep.

The Trained Shock Absorber.

The Lieutenant jumped out, ran down the street and vanished in the darkness in search of his refugees, and as he went there was a shuffle behind, and out of the night came the sound of the car, and then a muffled boom had told of the hidden danger behind the hill. The headlights sent weak beams down the street and showed the buildings on the side.

There was a long silence in the car, and then a man came out of the night and yawned. He wanted a cigarette and for it told the story of the old signal man on the railroad, who stuck at his post all night long.

Three Sleepy Little Heroes.

There were a few very feminine figures, and then the three girls, one could see three heads in the upheaval, snuggled down again and tried to catch a few moments more sleep. They had been there most of the night, jumping at each other when the explosions came, but driving their car with a nonchalant coolness and skill that evoked almost extravagant praise from the men who had worked with them. Womanhood, the kind that wears a uniform and does not shrink from dark or danger, means something entirely new to the men of that part of New Jersey now, for it took real courage to do what they did.

A few figures materialized out of the night and came toward the car, the men who dragged their feet and seemed careless of where they went or what happened to them. They were the last of the civilians in South Amboy who had been routed out by the soldiers to be sent to the refugee camp in Perth Amboy. The Lieutenant seemed rather dispirited. He had seen two cars, and this was all he had found. They all piled aboard, the lights went up again to disturb for a moment the girls in the ambulance, and then the cars roared into life again and turned about to leave this place of gloom and strange silence.

thing his first sleep in twenty hours when he was awakened, told of what it time. He was J. Frank Miller, a cashier in the Portland street, New York, office. And then at 2 o'clock in the morning came a crash that threw me out of bed. I got up and ran out doors.

When the Big Crash Came.

"It wasn't so bad at first on Friday," he said, "when the first explosion came. We were scared, but they died down after a time, and about midnight we thought it was all over and went to bed. And then at 2 o'clock in the morning a crash that threw me out of bed. I got up and ran out doors.

"There was a crash after crash. Chimneys dropped into the street and the plate glass windows seemed to jump out at me and then fall into a thousand pieces. The people came running out of their houses and ran into the middle of the street, where there was less danger of being cut or hit. Up behind the hill we could see great sheets of flame shooting up into the air. It was as if a bang that threw us about as if we had been paper.

"Women ran about wringing their hands and screaming, their children running after their shoulders. Sometimes they fell down and cut themselves, and got again crying and ran on, not knowing where they were going. Some of them had on their night clothes and a few were partly dressed in the few things they could pick up. With every explosion the air seemed to swing a bit and we could hear timber cracking as the roofs shifted and the porches moved.

Couldn't Leave Old Home Town.

"By and by I went back to my house to quiet my sister. My big dog was there, too, and with every bang he whined clear off the ground and then whined back. It seemed as if the earth had lifted under me and I don't wonder he jumped. In the morning my sister couldn't stand it any longer and I don't know where she went, but I determined to stay. You see I have lived here a long time and I hated to go, besides I wanted to take care of the dog. He's back there now, but I guess he can get along on water until I come back. He didn't have anything to eat all day, and neither did I, only a slice of cake.

But strange and madly rent as South Amboy seemed at midnight it was even more a place to wonder at when day revealed the devastation which the blast had left. It was a town which had been turned inside out, and the things which were hidden ordinarily behind the walls were now thrown open to the winds and to any one who looked at them. Houses were not thrown of wood with front doors and windows which had been broken and crumpled, but the little household goods scattered about as if in mockery.

Shattered Cars in Streets.

The Red Cross rooms of the local chapter were open to the street, garments lying on the floor, and the chairs and mirrors of the village barber shop were piled in a heap on the floor, but out of the house all the way down, frames and doors had been blown out, the ceilings were down and the furniture a tangled heap of wreckage.

In the afternoon the army authorities permitted the women to take their things to town to come back to get clothing and other things they needed, and the way in which they approached their homes was a most interesting sight. Some of them came back wringing their hands, and almost beside themselves with grief and the shock of having their home all the way down, frames and doors had been blown out, the ceilings were down and the furniture a tangled heap of wreckage.

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Cat Clings to Perch in Tree.

A Major in charge of the relief work had established himself in a schoolhouse in which there was a single window or door was left. There he, so far as possible, provided food and clothing to those who were in need of them, and saw that the things they wanted to get from their homes were obtained. Opposite this school was a church which had suffered as much as any building in the place. Its stained glass windows were scattered in the street, and the roof gaped with cracks. The altar and decorations were broken and cast into a heap in front of the twisted benches.

But outside was a bit of cheer, for there were two old women, who had been allowed to return, had built a stove of bricks and on it cooked coffee in wash boilers. This, with the food furnished by the Red Cross, they distributed to the people who had nothing in their homes, and it was the only cheerful gathering place in the whole town.

Not far away was a little group of

people about a tree, and up in the top-most branches was a cat which clung desperately to a limb and looked toward the first crash came and decided it was a good place to stay and no deluded dog of persons had caused the ground to go to change its feline mind. It had been there all Friday night and Saturday and Sunday night, and is probably there yet.

Red Cross Women Aid Amid Shell Fire

(Continued from First Page.)

and the flames still climbed through the hills and valleys of the town. The work of the war must go on uninterrupted. Inside the far spreading plan a college professor and his expert assistants from the Federal Housing Commission were packing the hot ground while they went over the general plans of the reconstruction which is to be begun as soon as the earth cools.

Another Big Blast Improbable.

When night fell the probability of still another big blast had become a matter of the minds of experts, merely a bare possibility. And in the meantime there was nothing to do but to stand aside and wait. All the long stretches of unpeopled barracks in which employees had been housed had disappeared. The administration building was intact except for shattered frames of doors and windows and great holes in the walls where flying shells had pierced the structure. Inside the administration building was the night life, a hungry and very thirsty little cocker spaniel which had survived the shocks. As tenderly as if the little dog were human the Red Cross girls carried the animal out of the wrecked street building and fed it.

serve guards, wet to the skin but treating their discomforts jokingly as the rain and hail continued to pelt them.

Rescue of Dumb Animals.

It was the Red Cross girls, working amid the ruins in the early morning, who first came upon suffering horses, dogs, cats and even flocks of noisy chickens, all of which miraculously had lived through the explosions, but many of them so badly injured that they had to be killed. The possibility of a greater explosion, of the kind that had caused the disaster, was a constant fear. The Red Cross officials to grow a bit hysterical on Saturday, was still at least a possibility, although efforts had been made, and were still on the making, to keep the flying away from the greater stores of explosives sunken beneath the sea of the plant in the northeastern section of the town.

For one thing, so it was learned only

last night, when Capt. W. W. Watson of the Ordnance Department and Major Armstrong of the British army flew over the plant in an airplane on Saturday afternoon they dropped bombs with a nice precision on the banks of Chesapeake Creek, which runs past the munition magazines, in such a fashion that great holes were torn in the creek banks. Thus the waters of the creek were diverted to a hollow and in turn flowed over the side of the hill, to the extent of a few feet, and the coverings of some of the larger magazines.

As far as those magazines were concerned the danger from fire was thus largely dispelled, but there always was a possibility that a flying shell might set off one of these larger stores of TNT. It was a flying shell that did the trick, a small explosion in unit 6-11 which spread across almost three miles of wooded hills and exploded among the barracks of the plant, starting a fire which made all of the barracks a shambles. At a late hour last night, however, army men were of the opinion that the danger of further explosions was almost negligible.

The great fear which on Saturday turned Manhattan topsy turvy for a few days, and which had made the Red Cross girls and a few of the other townsfolk so nervous, was that the plant would be blown up. The Red Cross girls, who were in the plant, were of the opinion that the danger of further explosions was almost negligible.

The news that workers about the plant had been ordered to leave, and that the plant was to be blown up, was a great relief to the workers. The plant was to be blown up, and the workers were to be ordered to leave.

Many Yarns Are Spun.

All day long and last night the stories as to the origin of the initial explosion spread from mouth to mouth among the workers and others in and about the plant. The stories running from the expected German spy variety to trivialities such as short circuits and careless handling of explosives. Needless to say, the yarns were not all true.

Long Lines of Red Cross Cars.

Throughout the day long lines of the Red Cross cars, motor ambulances belonging to and driven by the girls of the National League for Women's Service and other women drivers, were dashing cross country or were ranged in long lines in front of the various relief headquarters in Perth Amboy.

In greatest profusion these various kinds of motor cars were lined up in front of the Perth Amboy High School, where so many of the refugees were being housed, some sleeping on cots in the schools and many others quartered in the brown army tents which dotted the grassy terraces in front of the building.

Pacing back and forth always were naval reserves, rifles on shoulders, to keep at a distance those who had no real business there. They were the blackest in the afternoon and the brief but very fierce storm broke there was a scurry for cover by all but the militiamen and the girl drivers.

Out from the ambulance seats came raincoats and slickers of a feminine cut and the girls, who had been munching sandwiches and drinking milk—their only "meal" of the day—laughed and donned their rubber coats and continued to brave the storm. And back and forth through a rain which for a few minutes made it almost an impossibility to see across the street paced the naval re-

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Motorists whose curiosity overcame their awe for the gasless Sunday order were promptly turned back by guards who paced the roads leading toward the scenes of confusion, but drivers who honestly were willing to help carry refugees from point to point or assist in other ways were welcomed.

In the park in front of the Perth Amboy City Hall brownish army tents had sprung up overnight. Guardsmen and other eager workers already had swept the masses of broken window glass in the business section into the piles where the glass offered less danger to the trees of the cars always chugging by. Windows had been boarded up to protect the stocks of goods and except for the military aspect of the town Perth Amboy was rapidly coming back to normality.

All the saloons of Perth Amboy, as well as South Amboy, had been closed promptly after the explosions of Saturday night began to spread terror through the region. Military law prevailed. Outposts of the police had been placed on the pavement at street corners, khaki clad, with loaded rifles, attached to which were gleaming bayonets, regulated traffic instead of the policemen who formerly had done such work.

The long lines of refugees trying to get back to the homes in the danger zones stretched away from the police headquarters in the City Hall through yesterday and last night. As in the matter of most statistics of the disaster no complete figure of the number of refugees still being housed in Perth Amboy and the neighboring towns were available even last night.

Incomplete figures gathered by the Red Cross showed that by nightfall yesterday there were 400 of the refugees being cared for at Plainfield, 1,000 at Rahway, 2,500 at Elizabeth, 100 at Westfield, thirty at New Britain and thirty at Jersey City. The remaining thousands were at Perth Amboy. Seventy-five of the refugees were sent to Manhattan by the Red Cross and these thirty-five were placed in a Government building at Abington Square and West Thirty-first street and the rest sent to small hotels here or to the homes of their friends or relatives.

Estimate of Red Cross Aid.

The Red Cross authorities estimated that altogether they had cared for and fed 10,000 refugees and had reunited several hundred families scattered in the hurried flight.

In one Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, the congregation of which consists mostly of Slavs, more than 100, chiefly women and children, slept Friday night. On Saturday and yesterday the relief workers learned that an epidemic of whooping cough had begun among the children. The sufferers immediately were placed in ambulances and taken to various hospitals, where they were kept apart from the other patients.

Last night a call came from Plainfield for more workers. All were badly charred and cases of Spanish influenza had occurred among the homeless being housed there. The Red Cross immediately sent the nurses that were needed.

Prof. C. S. Gray, head of the United States Housing Commission, arrived at Perth Amboy yesterday and will take charge of the reconstruction work on the damaged homes. He said that the commission would see that the series of hills is constructed between the barracks and the working units to decrease the danger to the men in case of explosion.

The compensation claims of workmen who have been injured and the families of men who have been killed will be handled by Col. Traub. He arrived from Washington yesterday with six assistants.

"An employee of the United States Government, the injured workmen have received medical and hospital treatment," he said. "They will be taken care of until they recover from their injuries. The medical representatives of the Compensation Commission in the locality is Dr. C. W. Naulty, Jr., acting assistant surgeon of the United States Public Health Service, stationed at Perth Amboy. The Perth Amboy City Hospital is being used by the Commission for its patients, and all the injured are at this hospital except three cases in the Monmouth Memorial Hospital at Long Branch, N. J."

A survey of the damage at Morgan has been arranged by the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross, and it will start today, under the direction of Paul Starrett, president of the Puller Construction Company. A conference at which plans for restoring the homes will be discussed, will be held in Perth Amboy today.

Few of the insurance policies held by residents of South Amboy and Morgan contain a clause for payment in the event of destruction by explosion, in the opinion of Frederick Buswell, president of the National Fire Underwriters of America.

7 BODIES IDENTIFIED; 18 STILL UNCLAIMED

Fragments of Clothing and Jewelry Are Only Means of Telling Some.

BLAST DESTROYS RECORDS

Partial List of Injured and Missing Given Out—Six New York Men "Lost."

Because of the almost complete destruction of the lists and records of the T. A. Gillespie Company the task of identifying the dead workers, victims of Friday night's explosion in the Morgan, N. J. munition plant, has become increasingly great. Many of the bodies are so burned and charred as to be unrecognizable and identification has to be made from fragments of clothing or articles of jewelry found on the bodies. A partial list of bodies in Perth Amboy and South Amboy morgues and such identifying marks as have been found on them follow:

HICKERSON, ROY, 24, 307 Eleventh avenue, Brooklyn, son of William J. Hickerson, president of the William J. Hickerson Furniture Company, Lexington avenue and Forty-second street, Manhattan, who identified his son's body. Young Hickerson was associated with his father in business until last Friday, when he went to take a position in the munition plant. He was the time he fell in his duty to get this same essential war occupation. Identification of his body was made by a card and pass to one of the buildings of the plant and by a watch.

BYRNES, HENRY E., Old Bridge, N. J. One of the several buildings of the Gillespie plant and by papers found in his pockets.

McGRAW, PATRICK, 21, 247 Nassau street, Newark. Identified by badge 5401. Died at the City Hospital, Newark, on Saturday night from shock.

ZIMMERMAN, DAVID. Identification made by a card and pass to one of the buildings of the plant and by a watch. Zimmerman lived in one of the barracks of the plant and no other address is known. The body is in Flynn's morgue, Perth Amboy.

MILLER, JOHN. A chauffeur. Identified by his license and registration card. Body in the morgue of the City Hospital.

FLYNN, JAMES J. supposed to be an employee of the plant. Identified by means of a card and pass to one of the buildings of the plant and by a watch.

EDWARDS, MRS. ANNIE E., South Amboy. St. Michael's Hospital. Died Saturday night from influenza contracted as a result of exposure following the explosion.

18 Bodies Still Unidentified. Thirteen unidentified bodies lay in Mason's morgue in South Amboy last night and five more in Garrison's morgue. All were badly charred and identification in some cases may never be made. One body bore on the clothing the initials W. P. T. G., and on another was an identification disk numbered 842.

In addition to those missing in the following are known to be in the Perth Amboy hospital suffering from injuries: Peter, Lawrence, cut and bruised and suffering from internal injuries. Condition said to be serious.

Harbert Piezer, condition serious, suffering from shell shock and cuts. Michael Craig, attached to the Y. M. C. A., cut and bruised.

In addition the following hospital patients have been identified, but the extent of their injuries or other particulars have not yet been ascertained: Gertrude Liederman, Lizzie Praemendort, Josie Miller, Morgan, Joseph Feldman, William Painsworth, Charles Caplan, Edward H. Morris, Andrew Fletcher, Abraham Davis, Charles Ryder, John Royce and the Rev. Joseph Miller.

Partial List of Missing.

Late yesterday afternoon army officials, after checking up as far as possible with available records, gave out the following partial list of persons not yet accounted for:

W. D. Bradburn, Flushing, J. P. Carrone, New York; William A. Cole, Perth Amboy; Francis McDuck, Yale N. J.; Alexander Rice, 947 Seventeenth street, Brooklyn; and S. W. Holland, William F. Manley, A. E. Bellitto and Frank W. Harding of New York.

Among the missing are several Government inspectors, two of whom, Nickerson and Byrne, have been identified. Two more have been found in Perth Amboy hospitals. They are Herbert Piezer and Peter Lawlor. The others who have not yet been found are William Bayoum of Flushing, L. J. J. Cuaron, New York; William A. Cole, P. W. Holland, W. F. Manley, A. D. Bellitto, New York; Francis McGuchien, a man named Vail, Alex. Wice, 947 Seventeenth street, Brooklyn, and Francis Harding, 14 East 111th street, New York.

COUNTRY CALLS FOR MUNITION WORKERS

Loss of Gillespie Buildings Imperils Supply of War Materials to Boys in France.

STRAIN ON OTHER PLANTS

Immediate Mobilization of Every Available Person Urged in Messages.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—Destruction of the Gillespie shell loading plant has created a grave emergency in removing the biggest projectile plant in the country. Officials of the Government, in quick recognition of the situation, sent a call today to skilled and unskilled laborers in every State to volunteer for service in existing munition and shell plants in order to increase their output and make good the shrinkage the disaster would cause in the flow of munitions to France. The shortage of workers in the plant is about 150,000 in unskilled laborers alone. Many additional thousands of skilled workers also are needed urgently.

The only way in which serious effects from the Gillespie explosion can be avoided, it was declared, is to draw upon the resources of the country for the required supply of workmen. Women will be asked to volunteer as well. Failure to meet the shortage of labor may cause serious curtailment in the extent of military operations of the American forces in France.

Secretary Lane, chairman of the field division of the Council of National Defense, and Nathan A. Smyth of the Federal employment service, sent out appeals to State councils of defense and field agents of the labor service today for the immediate mobilization of every available worker, including drafts upon factories and mills not engaged in turning out war materials and products essential to the civilian population.

Heavy Demand for Munitions.

The requisitions for munitions and shells that have come from Great Britain in recent weeks have far exceeded the expectations of the War Department in the earlier part of the year. His demands are far ahead of the war programme, and although the production of munitions has been increased to the highest possible point, the output has not kept pace with the orders from the other side.

"A stock of high explosive shells imperatively needed in France has been destroyed," said Secretary Lane in his message to the State council of defense, "and the flow of these supplies has been retarded not only for the present moment, but for months to come unless immediate relief is provided."

"This loss must be made up at once by putting additional burdens on all other American munition plants. Within the next forty-eight hours the number of men to be supplied from your State will be wired by the United States employment service to its Federal State Council. Please issue the necessary notices to your State, county and community councils of defense to put their entire influence behind the employment service in this emergency."

An Appeal to Patriotism.

"This call for men must be met, but there will be no difficulty in getting these men. The work is dangerous, but it will not deter any one, for it is unthinkable that any man in this country would hold back from doing work which the women of England and France long have been carrying on. When this problem is placed before the American people public opinion will be solidly behind the employment service and the community labor boards in this emergency."

Mr. Smyth's telegram to the representatives of the Federal Employment Service, similar in tone, called for the exertion of the utmost efforts in recruiting men for work in projectile and shell loading plants. The curtailment caused by the Gillespie explosion, he said, must be absorbed by the remaining plants.

"America's biggest shell loading plant is gone," he said in his message. "There are other plants in operation. Still others are under construction. Work at all is seriously retarded by lack of labor. The Ordnance Department states immediate labor shortage in existing munition plants is 150,000 unskilled laborers. Even greater numbers are needed for the production of shells. The only way to make good the loss in shells and to absorb the shock so that it shall not injure Pershing's men is to fill this labor shortage at once. In view of these facts a realization of total labor demands among the States will be made at once."

Not Afraid of Dangers.

"The requirements in your State will tax your utmost efforts. They can be filled only by getting men from non-essentials. Community labor boards must expedite combining non-essentials and replacing men by women. Make clear to people of your State their duty in the emergency. The element of risk in shell loading plants will deter no real man or woman. Americans are not afraid of these facts or of the penalties of danger at home."

The immediate construction of a TNT plant at Giant, Cal., with an estimated cost of \$1,400,000, has been authorized by the War Department. This plant, however, will not be ready for operation for some time. It will be located on land adjacent to the nitric acid plants of the Giant Powder Company and leased to the Government with the privilege of renewal at yearly periods.

The serious effects of the loss of the Gillespie plant are indicated by the fact that the Americans in recent operations in France have several times expended as many as 1,000,000 shells in a single day.

NEWARK OPENS ITS DOORS TO REFUGEES

53 From South Amboy Are in Hospitals and 3,500 More Are Housed and Fed.

Are Housed and Fed.

Fifty-three refugees from South Amboy, N. J., are in four hospitals in Newark suffering from shell shock, pneumonia, influenza and other ailments as a result of the disaster at the Morgan station plant of the T. A. Gillespie Shell Loading Company. None of them is in a serious condition. Forty of the sufferers are in St. Michael's Hospital, six in the Newark City Hospital, two in St. James' Hospital and two in the Newark Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. John Brady, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in South Amboy, and Sister Mary Margaret, superior of the nuns who teach in the parochial school of that church, are among the patients in St. Michael's Hospital. They are reported as improving.

About 3,500 refugees are being sheltered and fed by the Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., churches, synagogues, Salvation Army, Public Service Corporation and private families in Newark, the Oranges, Montclair and other places in Essex county. Fifteen hundred refugees are temporarily making their home in a building at Broad street and Central avenue, Newark, which the Newark Chapter of the Red Cross has taken over for emergency relief.

Cots have been set up on all floors of the building, an improvised kitchen has been installed, and everything is being done to make the unfortunate as happy and as comfortable as can be. They were all taken on automobile rides through the county parks yesterday morning and afternoon in private cars which were volunteered for the purpose.

The authorities in Perth Amboy telephoned the Newark police yesterday to the effect that any of the refugees who so desired could return to Perth Amboy, but they would not be allowed to take